

July 3, 2009

CUPE Ontario Statement on the Military Coup in Honduras

We condemn the Military Coup carried out on the morning, of June 28, 2009 by approximately 200 Honduran soldiers. The soldiers arrived at President Zelaya's residence, reportedly fired shots, beat and detained the leader by force. Interviewed by TeleSur, Zelaya informed the international community that the soldiers took him to an Air Force base and put him on a plane to Costa Rica. "They threatened to shoot me", Zelaya indicated.

Zelaya also said: "I have been the victim of a kidnapping carried out by a group of Honduran soldiers. I think this is a vicious plot planned by elites. Elites who only want to keep the country isolated and in extreme poverty." In addition, Honduras' ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Carlos Sosa Coello, reported that the President has been beaten up.

CUPE Ontario Demands:

- We demand respect for Zelaya's life, his safety and the safety of his family.
- Respect for the democratic decision and will of the Honduran people, who elected Zelaya as their President.
- Demand from the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations (UN) to immediately return Zelaya to Honduras and reinstate him as the President until he completes his term, which ends in 2010.
- Request from United Nations, the Rio Group and the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Central American Parliament to demand respect for constitutional guarantees in Honduras.
- Demand that the Canadian government not recognize the President of the Congress, Roberto Micheletti, who has declared himself interim president of Honduras on the Friday before the coup.
- Request that President Obama take a stand against the military coup in Honduras.
- Immediately free the Cuban, Venezuelan, and Nicaraguan ambassadors to Honduras and respect International Law, in particular, the Embassies' Immunity.
- Immediately stop the violence being inflicted by the military and members of the coup against the people of Honduras, release people illegally detained and respect the Human Rights of workers, indigenous people, human rights organizations and civil society.

On behalf of our 220,000 members, we also would like express our solidarity with the people of Honduras.